

AMERICA
FIRST

REVOLTING GRANDMA'S

Mary Quartiano, Spokesperson
Muriel Watson, Political Adviser

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November 6, 2002

REVISED DRAFT

TO:

The Department of Water Resources
The State Water Resources Control Board
The Department of Health Services
The 2002 Recycled Water Task Force

Revolting Grandma's White Paper

Public Information: Education and Outreach Group

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4080 Hancock Street, Suite 4311 * San Diego, CA 92110-6203 * Tel/Fax: (619) 226-6536
The Very Independent Revolting Grandma's

November 6, 2002
Revolting Grandma's
White Paper

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Subject: The San Diego Toilet-To-Tap Experience * Conceptions
* Solutions & Recommendations.

It appeared that until around May 1997 San Diego's Toilet-to-tap was a well kept secret. Simply put: It seemed that the public-at-large was left out of the information loop. For example:

- a. The absence of Television and Radio Public Service Announcements was appalling. During this time period, if you were lucky and knew what you were looking for, you might have found something in San Diego's major newspaper.
- b. The State Assembly Committee Hearing held in San Diego on December 8, 1987 was a real eye-opener. The following excerpts are from the Hearing Report's Cover Letter:

"San Diego's initial proposal recieved preliminary approval from the Department of Health Services, the agency responsible for insuring that public water is safe to drink. However, San Diego subsequently suggested changes to the initial proposal, in part to reduce costs. It must be certain that low costs do not compromise public health. Moreover, the Department of Health Services has not approved the provisions in the proposal".....

"The project has proceeded with minimum input from the people of San Diego. The public's response to the Committee's questionnaire about the project has been monumental. It is critical in the concept of a public hearing that the public know this project will be implemented, whether the water will be safe, how much the processed water will cost, and whether there are more desirable alternatives to drinking reclaimed sewage. Moreover, by holding this hearing in San Diego, citizens will be able to directly express their concerns".

Howard Wayne, Assemblyman
78th. Assembly District

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Regarding the unappetizing subject matter of toilet-to-tap, early in 1998 Revolting Grandma's started to do some serious Research and Public Outreach. For example: A ✓

- a. We shared our research with City Councils throughout San Diego County, various garden clubs, civic minded grass-root organizations, and ordinary citizens.
- b. We attended the City of San Diego's Scientific Blue Ribbon Panel's public hearing held on/or about July 7, 1998. The public's response to their final report was... somewhat less than flattering. See our upcoming 11-19-02 correspondence and enclosed White Paper Part Three.
- c. When toilet-to-tap was an item on the agenda, we attended, submitted written reports, and spoke at San Diego City Council Meetings.
- d. We also contacted members of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and its Science Advisory Board..... Enclosed please find a copy Chairman Ron Roberts letter, with enclosure, addressed to Revolting Grandma's dated October 1, 2002.
- e. Please note: Just several days prior to the July Education and Outreach Group meeting that was held in San Diego, Revolting Grandma's didn't even know that the 2002 Recycled Water Task force existed.....

Muriel Watson represented Revolting Grandma's at this meeting. She arrived early and walked in on what appeared to be a private meeting not intended for public consumption.)

De Ja Vu. The more things change, the more they stay the same. At all levels of government, it seems that those who are responsible for insuring a safe public drinking water supply --- just don't get it.....

Communications from the Task Force itself indicate that the public-at-large throughout the state has rejected the ill-conceived idea of drinking reclaimed, recycled, or repurified sewage. However, it has always been our impression that the public-at-large would accept sensible nonpotable solutions.....

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Think about where this reclaimed water comes from. Think about how many people might become ill or die if one major (or minor) mishap occurred. Last, but not least, think about the potential legal ramifications. For example: The 1993 Milwaukee Waterborne Cryptosporidium Crisis. head

Solutions & Recommendations:

Regarding the issue of drinking sewage, it is our preception that trying to convince the public-at-large in San Diego would be a hard-sell. For example:

- a. The National Research Council in Washington, D.C. recommended Indirect Potable Reuse as an option of last resort.
- b. The San Diego County Science Advisory Board could not recommend the safety of San Diego's Indirect Potable Reuse Project. However, they did recommend nonpotable reuses.
- c. A comprehensive newspaper article headlined "Toilet-to-tap plan worries Salk researcher."

*Source: The San Diego Union-Tribune * Sunday, October 18, 1998 * Page B-1.*

Although we may disagree with what seems to be the primary function of the 2002 Recycled Water Task Force, "promulgation of Indirect Potable Reuse", for better public input Revolting Grandma's offer the following recommendations:

- a. Wide use of community based public meeting places, such as: Public Libraries and School Auditoriums. //
- b. Radio, Television, and Local Newspaper Public Interest Notices work very well to bolster public participation.
- c. In order to bolster the sagging reputations of Local Water Departments, their public meetings should include viable alternatives to drinking sewage..... Education and public outreach appears to be a talent they lack.
- d. The need to conserve drinking water dictates that the Task Force encourage municipalities to utilize and/or mandate dual plumbing for all new construction sites. Dual plumbing is a proven cost-effective method of conserving potable water for drinking.

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- e. Our recommendations also include the need for municipalities to utilize recycled water for highway landscaping, parks, flower field irrigation, and basic construction dust control.

Should you need further suggestions regarding nonpotable uses of reclaimed sewage, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted.

Muriel Watson
619-479-1125

Mary Quartiano
619-226-6536

Encls: (2) Ron Roberts Letter dated 10-01-02.....Pages 2.
San Diego County Science Advisory Board's Draft
Recommendations dated 01-02-99..... Pages 5.

cc: *Ron Roberts*